

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3293

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3740

MADRID ALSO FOR AMB CARLUCCI

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: GOVE ANNOUNCED DECISION JULY 1 TO RETURN RADIO RENASCENCA (RR) TO CHURCH HIERARCHY. WORKERS HAVE RESPONDED WITH CALLS FOR STREET SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY FROM "PROGRESSIVE" GROUPS. FORCE MAY BE NEEDED TO REMOVE WORKERS FROM RR PREMISES. COPCON REPORTEDLY REFUSED PREVIOUSLY TO EXECUTE SIMILAR ORDERS, AND CONFRONTATION BETWEEN COPCON AND REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL COULD BE IN MAKING. IMPASSE IN REPUBLICA CASE CONTINUES AS RC MEDIATOR ATTEMPTS TO BRING TWO SIDES TOGETHER. IMPLEMENTATION OF INCREASED TRAIN FARES HAS LED TO PROTESTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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REFUSALS TO PAY, AND MINOR VIOLENCE. INCIDENTS WILL

BE USED BY FAR LEFT TO ATTACK COMMUNIST TRANSPORTATION MINISTER WHO APPROVED HIGHER FARES. ELSEWHERE, JULY 1 SERIES OF DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS ANNOUNCED BY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FOR A LISBON HIGH SCHOOL IS FIRST INDICATION GOVT INTENDS TO MAKE GOOD ITS PLEDGE IN JUNE 21 POLITICAL ACTION PLAN TO REASSERT AUTHORITY IN SCHOOLS. END SUMMARY

1. RADIO RENASCENCA: PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES AND COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER JESUINO MET MORNING JULY 1 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF WORKERS OCCUPYING LISBON STUDIOS OF RADIO RENASCENCA (RR). GONCALVES INFORMED WORKERS OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL'S (RC) DECISION THAT THEY MUST END OCCUPATION, TURNING STATION BACK TO CHURCH CONTROL. WORKERS BROADCAST WORD OF GOVT DECISION LATER IN DAY, APPEALING AT SAME TIME FOR SUPPORT OF "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES. STREET SUPPORT MATERIALIZED LATE IN EVENING OUTSIDE RR STUDIOS, ORGANIZED BY SEVERAL FAR LEFT GROUPS (INCLUDING PRP-BR, FEC, MES, LCI, LUAR, UDP).

2. COMMENT: COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION RUI FREIRE MONTES TOLD EMBOFF ENVENING JULY 1 THAT GOVT ANTICIPATED UNHAPPY REACTION ON PART OF OCCUPYING WORKERS, BUT THAT GOVT WOULD LEAVE WAY OPEN FOR WORKERS TO LEAVE PREMISES "GRACEFULLY." IF THEY DO NOT DO SO, ACCORDING TO MONTES, GOVT WILL USE FORCE. IF WORKERS REFUSE TO LEAVE, WHICH SEEMS LIKELY, TEST OF STRENGTH BETWEEN RC AND COPCON COULD ENSUE. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SEVERAL SOURCES THAT COPCON PREVIOUSLY REFUSED TO CARRY OUT SIMILAR ORDERS. END COMMENT.

3. REPUBLICA IMPASSE CONTINUES: DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING ON ALMOST DAILY BASIS BETWEEN REPUBLICA MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS COMMISSION UNDER MEDIATION OF RC MEMBER CPT. SOUSA E CASTRO. STICKING POINTS IN DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE TO BE (A) ROLE OF WORKERS IN DETERMINING EDITORIAL CONTENT OF PAPER, AND (B) WHETHER ALVARO BELO MARQUES, WORKERS COMMISSION CHOICE TO HEAD THE PAPER, WILL BE ALLOWED TO REJOIN REPUBLICA STAFF.

4. COMMENT: DIRECT ROLE OF RC TROUBLE-SHOOTER SOUSA E CASTRO AS WELL AS THE QUICKENED PACE OF MEDIATION EFFORTS ARE INDICATIVE OF RC DESIRE TO BE RID OF REPUBLICA CASE. ALTHOUGH MANAGEMENT IS STANDING FIRM ON THE KEY ISSUE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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EDITORIAL CONTROL, IT HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE ON OTHER ELEMENTS IN DISPUTE, E.G., WAGE DEMANDS. SERIOUS COMPLICATING FACTOR IS SPLIT AMONG WORKERS BETWEEN COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS AND THOSE ALIGNED WITH GROUPS FARTHER TO LEFT -- PRIMARILY UDP. COMMUNISTS SEEM INCLINED TO REACH ACCOMMODATION, BUT WORKERS ON FAR LEFT REMAIN INTRANSIGENT. IF SETTLEMENT IS TO COME, IT WILL HAVE TO BE IMPOSED BY GOVT. END COMMENT.

5. TRAIN FARES (AND TEMPER) GO UP: AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED, INCREASED RAIL FARES -- VARYING FROM ZONE TO ZONE BUT AVERAGING APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT -- TOOK EFFECT JULY 1. WHILE JUSTIFIABLE ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS, CONSIDERING IMMENSE DEFICIT WHICH RAIL SYSTEM PILES UP, MEASURE HAS LITTLE PUBLIC SUPPORT. FIRST DAY OF NEW FARES FOUND TRAIN STATIONS IN MUCH OF METROPOLITAN LISBON SCENES OF CONFUSION, TENSION, SOME FIGHTING, AND MUCH ORGANIZED PICKETING. YOUTHFUL PICKETS IMPEDED MOST PASSENGERS FROM PURCHASING TICKETS, HARASSED THOSE THAT DID, AND IN SOME CASES THREATENED PHYSICAL ABUSE. MUCH OF COMMUTING PUBLIC CONSEQUENTLY RODE FREE ON JULY 1. (COMMENT: RAIL SYSTEM FALLS UNDER RESPONSIBILITY OF MINISTER FOR TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS VEIGA DE OLIVEIRA, A COMMUNIST. FARE INCREASE ACCORDINGLY PROVIDES MADE-TO-ORDER OPPORTUNITY TO CONDEMN PCP FOR "ANTI-WORKER" POLICIES. OLIVEIRA ALREADY HAS ACCUSED FAR LEFT OF BEING OUT TO GET HIM.

6. OVERALL COMMENT: THESE DEVELOPMENTS TAKE PLACE DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE JUNE 21 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AFM POLITICAL ACTION PLAN AND THE JULY 8 AFM ASSEMBLY, WHICH IS TO APPROVE THE PLAN. IT IS A PERIOD OF QUESTION AND INSTABILITY. INCREASINGLY, THE AFM IS SUBJECT TO CRITICISM AND, MOST TELLING OF ALL, HAS BECOME THE BUTT OF INNUMERABLE JOKES. DIFFICULTY FOR AFM IS THAT POSITIVE ACTIONS IT IS TAKING, INCLUDING OCCUPATION OF THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, (SEPTTEL) ARE DIRECTED AGAINST EITHER THE WORKERS OR STUDENTS, BOTH PRICKLY AND NOISY ADVERSARIES.
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